

A curse reawakened – Opera Australia unleashes the iconic *Rigoletto*



One of Opera Australia's (OA) most popular and enduring productions, Elijah Moshinsky's highly acclaimed *Rigoletto*, is making a triumphant return to the Joan Sutherland Theatre this winter, with opening night on 21 July coinciding exactly with the 70th anniversary of the company's first performance.

Blending opulence with emotional depth, this “*landmark staging*” (Limelight) of Verdi's gripping masterpiece remains one of the most visually stunning interpretations in OA's repertoire and is a fitting tribute to the brilliance of Moshinsky and the longevity of the national opera company since its humble beginnings in 1956 as the Elizabethan Opera Trust.

This winter, internationally renowned baritone Dalibor Jenis will reprise his compelling portrayal of the tormented Rigoletto, with highly sought-after Australian-Chinese tenor Kang Wang returning home to perform the charismatic yet ruthless Duke of Mantua.

Rising star Australian-Korean soprano Gemma Nha returns home after six years abroad to make her long awaited Sydney Opera House debut. Performing as Gilda, a role she has always dreamt of, Gemma will bring vocal purity and emotional depth to one of opera's most beloved heroines. Verdi's passionate score is exquisitely brought to life by the Opera Australia Orchestra, led by acclaimed Italian conductor Sesto Quatrini, in his exciting Australian debut, as he expertly guides the cast through every dramatic turn.

Set in a world of glamour, vice and betrayal, *Rigoletto* tells the story of a court jester torn between loyalty to his master and the fierce love of his daughter, Gilda. When the lustful Duke seduces Gilda, Rigoletto is consumed by a thirst for vengeance, but in a cruel twist of fate, his plan for justice leads to devastating consequences.

The production is anchored by Michael Yeargan's epic revolving dollhouse set which offers a breathtaking visual centerpiece that heightens the opera's dramatic intensity and emotional complexity. Yeargan's costumes and stage designs, including the scene-stealing Fiat 500, are inspired by Italy's La Dolce Vita era, evident through both the extravagant spectacle of the Duke's world and the tragic intimacy of Rigoletto's. Sweeping party scenes pulse with life, while quiet moments cut to the heart of Verdi's dark, human story.

When *Rigoletto* premiered in 1851, Verdi was so confident in its brilliance that he swore the cast to secrecy, forbidding them from even humming the music outside of rehearsal. Today, the score's unforgettable melodies – from “La donna è mobile” to the devastating final duet – have spread through film, television and pop culture, making *Rigoletto* instantly recognisable to seasoned opera lovers and first-time audiences alike.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF
DR HARUHISA HANDA

HERO PARTNER

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



CREATIVE VICTORIA

21 July - 21 August | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House

Creatives

Conductor **Sesto Quatrini**
 Director **Elijah Moshinsky**
 Set & Costume Designer **Michael Yeargan**
 Lighting Designer **Robert Bryan**
 Revival Director **Kate Gaul**

Cast

Rigoletto **Dalibor Jenis**
 Duke of Mantua **Kang Wang**
 Gilda **Gemma Nha**
 Monterone **Gennadi Dubinsky**
 Sparafucile **David Parkin**
 Maddalena **Sian Sharp**
 Marullo **Simon Meadows**
 Borsa **Virgilio Marino**
 Ceprano **Jonathan Alley**
 Giovanna **Dominica Matthews**
 Countess Ceprano **Jennifer Black**
 Page **Katherine Wiles**
 Usher **Malcom Ede**

Opera Australia Orchestra
Opera Australia Chorus

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Performance information

Evenings at 7:30pm

Jul 21, 23, 25, 30
 Aug 1, 5, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21

Matinee at 12:30pm

Aug 8

Running time

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes including one interval.

Performed in Italian with English surtitles.

This production contains sexual violence, violence against women and strobe lighting effects.

Bookings

Adult tickets from \$79 (fees may apply)

Opera Australia Box Office
 (02) 9318 8200
www.opera.org.au

**Joan Sutherland Theatre,
 Sydney Opera House**